

# A Summary of the Creed of *As-Salaf As-Saalih*

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Supervised by:  
ABDUL MALIK MUJAHID

#### Headquarters:

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA  
Tel: 00966-1-4033962/4043432  
Fax: 00966-1-4021659  
E-mail: darussalam@naseej.com.sa  
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## Publisher's Note

A creed is a set of fundamental beliefs and guiding principles of a religion. A religion or sect differs from another if its beliefs and principles are different. At the present time we find many religions and numerous sects of each religion in this world, while the Creator of this world has prescribed a simple and straight forward religion for us. He sent many Messengers and Prophets to various nations at different times to propagate His Message to mankind. But the people after those Messengers and Prophets changed their beliefs, thus deviating from the original religion. This went on until Allāh sent his Last Messenger ﷺ to mankind.

So it is our duty now to guard against deviation from the fundamental beliefs and principles of the only one religion, Islam, that was sent by Allāh from the existence of this world.

This book clearly defines the creed which the Last Messenger ﷺ has taught us. We should adhere to this creed to save our religion and to worship Allāh according to the correct way which was the way of the Prophet ﷺ, his Companions, the successors of the Companions, and the followers of the successors.

May Allāh help us all in this great task which requires our full attention as our whole life has to be spent according to it.

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**

General Manager, Darussalam

## A Summary of the Creed of *As-Salaf As-Saalih*

All praise is due to Allāh, the Lord of all the Worlds, and may Allāh's peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allāh and the Final Prophet, his family, Companions and all those who follow him until the Day of Resurrection. To proceed:

These are brief words regarding the explanation of the creed of *As-Salaf As-Saalih*. We were compelled to write this treatise because of the divisions and disunity the Muslim *Ummah* is suffering at the present time. This is evident among the current sects and groups (*Jamaa'at*) that are present on the scene. Each group calls to its own methodology (i.e. way of understanding the religion) and endorses itself as the right group. The matter has reached the level that people are uncertain about what they should believe and they are in

a state of confusion. They do not know who they should follow and who to take guidance from. We are not asserting that the correct Islam has become entirely lost, because the Messenger ﷺ said:

«لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي عَلَى الْحَقِّ ظَاهِرِينَ  
لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ وَلَا مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ حَتَّى  
يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى وَهُمْ عَلَى ذَلِكَ»

“There will always be a group from my *Ummah* who will be on the truth, and they will be the ones that will prevail. They will not be harmed by those who abandon them and those who oppose them until the Command of Allāh (i.e. the Last Day) comes to pass while they are on this path.” (Al-Bukhaari)

Therefore, we are required to be acquainted with this group that represents the Islam that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ came with, and that was present in the generation of the

Companions, their successors and then their successors. May Allāh make us of them. They are the Saved Seet (*Al-Firqatun-Naajiyah*) and the Victorious Group (*At-Taa'ifatul-Mansoorah*). This seet is represented by *Ahlu-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*, who are the natural extensions of the pious predecessors (*As-Salaf As-Saalih*).

### The Meaning of 'Aqeedah (Creed)

Linguistically, 'Aqeedah means contract, making a strong covenant and tying strongly and tightly. In Islamic terminology, 'Aqeedah means firm Faith that is not prone to any types of doubt for those who have it.

## The Meaning of *Salaf*

*Salaf* linguistically means what has passed and preceded. It is said, "something preceded as a *Salaf*", meaning it passed. *Salaf* also refers to a group of ancestors. For instance, Allāh said:

﴿فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ سَلَفًا وَمَثَلًا لِلْآخِرِينَ﴾

"And We made them a *Salaf* (precedent, as a lesson for those coming after them), and an example to later generations." (43:56)

Therefore, your *Salaf* are your forefathers and elder relatives, who are older and more virtuous than you. For this reason, the first generation is called *As-Salaf As-Saalih*. Hence, the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, his Companions, and the generations that followed them in righteousness are the *Salaf* of this *Ummah*. Furthermore, whoever calls to what the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ and his Companions called, then he is upon the

way of *As-Salaf As-Saalih*. For verily they have the most right to be followed, because they were truthful in their faith, strong in their belief and sincere in their worship. For this reason Allāh chose them to carry this message to the world. The leader (*Imaam*) of *As-Salaf As-Saalih* was the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, and whenever a dispute arose between his Companions, they referred to the Book of Allāh and the *Sunnah* of His Messenger ﷺ for judgment. Allāh said:

﴿فَإِنْ تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

"(And) if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allāh and His Messenger, if you believe in Allāh and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination." (4:59)

Moreover, the best of *As-Salaf As-Saalih* after the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, are his